



THE
PALACE
OF
SILENCE.



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A Cadmus The Librarian

THE
PALACE
OF
SILENCE:

A
PHILOSOPHIC TALE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
BY A LADY.

VOL. I.

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THE
PALACE
OF
ST. JAMES



VOLUME

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MCCCLXXV



P R E F A C E,

By the French Translator.

THE work I now present to the public is one of those monuments of Greek literature which are so difficult to translate with exactness.

Those who are acquainted with the different dialects of this language (particularly with the Æolic, Io-

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nic, and Doric) know how much the original purity of the idiom has degenerated in these colonies: notwithstanding each language preserved its local idiom, the learned agree that that idiom was so changed, in the space of a century, as scarcely to be known.

This work of Cadmus the Milesian (the only production of his that is extant) is a sufficient proof of the assertion. It is written

ten

ten in the Ionic dialect, and destitute of Attic purity ; therefore much more difficult to render in another language.

This, like all the other Greek works, has its graces peculiar to itself, which I do not flatter myself with having exactly copied. I have even allowed myself some slight alterations in many places, without injury to the history or different characters of the personages

the author has introduced. These alterations affect only certain expressions, that would have required a particular comment on their etymology, to shew their force and beauty ; and certain minute ornaments in the relation, which, being involved in obscurity, seem to spread a tedious languor over the work.

It will be seen, by the few events recorded in The Palace of Silence, that, in
all

all ages, men had hearts and passions : that youth was always imprudent ; conquest always false : that ambition, which knows no bounds, rarely steers free from crimes : in a word, that times and climates work no change in our inclinations ; which so much depend on the disposition of our organs, that their effects are always the same in all ages of the world ; and that the opinion of those who, through a blind re-

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spect

spect for antiquity, admire only ages that are past, and look with pity, or even contempt, on their own, may justly be disputed.

This history, or fiction, (for I am still at a loss what name to bestow on it,) appears to contain essential truths and pure morality ; for which reason I have thought it not altogether unworthy of the public attention : but I shall expect no greater acknowledgement

(xi)

ment of my zeal than the
general opinion of it will
warrant.



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HIS-

(21)

ment of my seat than the
general opinion of it will

Warrant



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HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL
DISSERTATION

On the establishment of the Greek
colonies in Asia Minor :

By way of Introduction to

THE PALACE OF SILENCE.

THE Palace of Silence is
one of the most an-
cient monuments of Greek
literature : it is fourscore
years older than Herodo-
tus's history, which was
published

published during the festival called Panathenæa, in the third year of the eighty-third olympiad.

I am ignorant of the various chances which have transmitted this manuscript down to us, in good preservation, notwithstanding its antiquity : all I know is, that a Greek of Navarino, a town in the Morea, sold it, some years since, to the commander of a Leghorn privateer. A friend
of

of mine, who is a zealous advocate for antiquity, met with it and bought it: he had begun a translation of it, when he died. Some scarce pieces he has left me, of which this work is one, will enable me to furnish the learned with new lights on the first ages of Greece, a country which produced so many illustrious men.

We are not to look on The Palace of Silence as entirely a fiction, since it affords

affords some traces of history. On this account, my inquisitive friend, with his usual exactness, was desirous of annexing, to the translation of the work, a chronological enquiry concerning those Greek authors to whom it might be attributed.

At first he was of opinion it should be fathered on one of the Hellanici,* who were both historians ; the first, born

* See Vossius de Historicis Græcis, l. 4, c. 5.

born at Mitylene, a city of Lesbos, and prior to Herodotus ; the second, his contemporary, born at Miletus : but, as this conjecture was supported by no proofs, new researches were made. My friend communicated it to Monf. M. --- a man well versed in ancient history and Greek literature ; to which his enquiries have been particularly directed. This learned gentleman attributed it to Hecataeus the Milesian, an

an author * more ancient than Herodotus, who flourished about the time mentioned in this work. He wrote under the reign of Darius the son of Hyftaspes, or Darius the Mede, † who succeeded to the throne of Persia after the death of the false Smerdis, or Smerdis

* Vide eundem, lib. I, cap. I. Nota insuper duos quoque fuisse Hecataeos, auctores et coetaneos ; quorum primus, de quo hic sermo est, fuit Miletanus, alter Abderitanus.

† The same who is called, in Scripture, Ahasuerus. See the book of Esther.

dis Magus : now, between Cambyfes and Darius there was a reign of only seven months ; which made us look on this opinion as a happy discovery. Nevertheless, a little reflexion soon overturned it. The author speaks of Polycrates, tyrant of Samos, and positively says that he was still living : but this Polycrates, according to Usher and Pliny,* was not alive in the last year of the reign of Cambyfes.

* Vide inferius.

Cambyfes. Usher* fays he was crucified, in the year of the world 3481, by order of Oroëtes, fatrap of Lydia, Ionia, and Phrygia, and governor of Sardis, the capital of Lydia ; but Pliny,† according to the system of Varro, places this tranfaction a year fooner ; that is to fay, in the two hundred and thirtieth year after the building of Rome, the eleventh year of the reign

* Annales Ufferii ad an. 3418.

† Hift. Nat. lib. 33, cap. 1.

reign of Tarquin the Proud,
and the first year of the six-
ty-fourth olympiad.

This reflection made me
relinquish the idea that He-
rodotus might be the au-
thor of it, as I at first ima-
gined. A comparison of the
style of his history with that
of The Palace of Silence
fully evinced that that opi-
nion was wrong, and de-
termined me to leave the
discussion of this specula-
tive point, which I looked
on

on with indifference, to a society of learned men, of which I was admitted a member. This discussion, however, was not useless in every respect : it led us to make researches concerning the Greek colonies of Asia Minor, and that in particular which founded Cnidus and peopled Asiatic Doris ; without losing sight of the discovery we had proposed.

They were divided in their opinions. Some insisted

fisted that the work ought
 to be attributed to Anax-
 agoras, that renowned phi-
 losopher who abandoned his
 fortune to give himself up
 entirely to the study of phi-
 losophy ; others fathered it
 on Oenopides of Chios, his
 disciple : some thought it
 must be the work of Epho-
 rus of Cumæ, or Theopom-
 pus of Chios, both disciples
 of Isocrates, of whom Vos-
 sius makes much mention
 in his Bibliotheca of Greek
 historians ; others gave it
 to

to Isocrates himself : but the consideration above-mentioned refuted all these opinions, as well as those which were offered before.*

At our last meeting, one of the society assured us, that he had weighty reasons for thinking it the work of Cadmus the Milesian.†

The hour of adjournment being come, the examination

* Vide super hoc Vossium de Historicis Græcis ; item Annotationes in primum librum Historiæ univers. Diodori Siculi.

† Vossius de Hist. Græc. l. 4, c. 1.

mination of his opinion was deferred till the next meeting ; which some circumstances since preventing, the question was dropt.

Some time after, comparing the times in which Cadmus lived, and those of which he wrote the history, I recalled to mind this opinion ; it appeared very probable, and the researches I have since made have confirmed me in it.

This author wrote the history of his country, and that of Ionia and Doris, before the expedition of the Persians, under the reign of Cambyfes.* Cadmus knew Polycrates, as well as Anacreon : he lived under Hyftieus and Ariftagoras, both tyrants of his country, Miletus. He knew how obnoxious Polycrates was to the Greeks, and how much they feared to see him

* Vide Voffium ubi sup.

him one day master of all their colonies.

Another point was made the subject of our enquiries. It was proper to know who was the Clidemus our author speaks of. Each of us undertook the examination of this question ; but, as the difficulty was not cleared up at the time of our separation, I found myself under the necessity of undertaking a solution of
b 2
it.

it. In this I met with no satisfaction ; unless Clidemus be the Clitodemus, a Greek historian, of whom Pausanias makes mention.* He is not to be found either among those recorded by the learned Gerard Vossius, or in Fabricius's *Bibliotheca Græca*.

With respect to the colony which founded Cnidus, it will not be amiss to trace

* Pausanias in Phocæcis, l. 10, c. 15.

trace events a little higher, and throw a little light on the epochs of the various migrations.*

The Atticans or Ionians, and the Peloponnesians or Dorians, were the only people of Greece that sent colonies into Asia Minor. The first of these colonies was that of the Achæans of Peloponnesus, who inhabited Lacedæmon.

b 3 Being

* Vide Strabonem, l. 8.

Being driven from their country, at the return of the Heraclidæ, in the year of the world 2900, they went, together with the descendants of Pelops, into the country which is situated between Myfia and Lydia, separated from Troas, on the north, by the river Caicus, and from Mæonia or Lydia, on the south, by the river Hermus. They took the name of Æolians from Æolus, the

the son of Deucalion, from whom they boasted their descent; and this country was afterwards called Æolia.*

At the same time Temenus and Chresphontes, descendants of Hercules, drove out other Achæans from Mycene and Argos, who were then in possession of those two kingdoms.

* Vide Strab. lib. 8. Pausaniam in Achaicis, l. 7. c. 1.

doms. The latter did not quit Peloponnesus, but, in their turn, chased away the posterity of Io, the son of Xuthus, who were settled in Arcadia, Elis, and part of Messene. They gave the name of Achæa to the country of which they had taken possession.

These Ionians, being expelled from their country, and obliged to seek another habitation, took refuge in Attica,

Attica, the place of their origin. They continued there during the rest of the reign of Melanthus, and till the end of that of Codrus.

That country finding itself overcharged by a multitude of inhabitants whom it was no longer able to support; Athens, now become a powerful republic, sent these Ionians into Asia Minor, under the conduct of Nib
 b 5 leus

leus and Androcles, both sons of Codrus, together with such citizens as the hope of better fortune inclined to follow them.*

These new adventurers, with their chiefs, made a descent on the western coasts of Lydia. They there met with a soil proper for cultivation, between the river Hermus, which separated them, on the north, from the

* Pausanias ubi sup. et c. 2. lib. citat.

the new Æolians, and the river Lycus, which parted them, on the south, from the Leleges and Carians, who were, according to Strabo,* formerly inhabitants of a country lying to the south of Troas and to the north of Lesbos, and were come to settle in that which was afterwards called Asiatic Doris.

The country in which these Ionians settled was the

b 6 most

* Strabo, l. 14, p. 420.

most fertile in all Asia Minor, and blest with the purest climate. They called it Ionia, from their own name, like their predecessors the Æolians.

The time of this settlement answers to the year which followed the death of Codrus, or to the second year after the death of that prince ; that is to say, between the years 2936 and 2938 of the creation of the world.

The

The Dorians, who re-
entered Peloponnesus, in
the year 2900, along with
the Heraclidæ, when the
latter expelled the race of
Pelops from thence, and
possessed themselves of the
kingdoms of Argos, My-
cenæ, Sparta, Messene, and,
in short, the whole coun-
try of Peloponnesus except
Corinth ; these Dorians, I
say, were the founders of
Cnidus, and gave their
name

name to Doris. It is farther necessary to explain the causes of this third migration, before we fix the date and place of their settlement.*

A little time after the return of the Dorians into Peloponnesus, Temenus, king of Argus, Chresphon-tes, king of Messene, and Eurysthenes and Procles, kings of Sparta, made a league

* Idem ibid. p. 449.

league together, and declared war against Melanthus, king of Athens, to punish him for having afforded an asylum, in his territories, to the Ionians of Peloponnesus, who had retired there. They marched into Attica, with a considerable army, and made great ravages there ; but could not reduce the capital. They only took possession of a tract of land bordering on Athens ; where they built

built the city of Megara. Being obliged to quit Attica, they left part of their troops in the city they had founded. These Dorians remained there the rest of Melanthus's reign ; but they were driven from thence, in great numbers, about the end of the reign of his son Codrus.*

Those who staid at Megara, after the death of that

* Pausanias in Atticis, l. 1, cap. 19. Strabo, lib. 8. Ubbo Emmius, l. 6.

that prince, being shut up within their walls by the enemy who had surrounded them, durst not venture out, for the purposes of commerce, or to till the ground. This restraint they could not support ; and, in order to free themselves from it, resolved to go in search of a new habitation elsewhere. Megara, which they abandoned, might be a place for arms to the Heraclidæ, as often as they chose

chose to enter Attica ; and their departure relieved the Athenians from this cause of disquiet.*

These new fugitives from Greece went into Asia ; and, either not daring, or not being willing, to attack the Greeks who were already settled there, made a descent on the southern part of the coasts of Lydia, from whence they chased away

* *Iidem qui supra.*

away the Leleges and Carians, who had taken possession of it, as I have before observed. This country was called Garia, from the name of the latter. A part retained that name, but the remainder took that of Doris, from the name of their new masters. Some Lydians had joined the ancient inhabitants of this country, and were likewise driven away by the Dorians, who presently fixed
at

at Jassa, a small island situated in the gulph of that name, to the north of the peninsula, where these same Dorians built Myndus and Halicarnassus.*

The sea has more than once separated lands from the continent, by sudden irruptions ; and, by retiring, united others. The isle of Jassa was since joined to the main land, by one of those

* Strabo, et hi quos supra.

those revolutions, which are so common to our globe ; it was already so at the time of Thucydides.*

Notwithstanding Herodotus, whose country was Halicarnassus, says that this city was founded by natives of Argos and Trœzen, we are yet of opinion, with Strabo, that both that and Myndus were the work of the Dorians of Jassa. It may

* Thucydides de Bello Peloponnes.

may be remarked here, by the way, that Ubbo Emmius,* who quotes this passage from Herodotus, is fallen into an error in this respect. The leader in this expedition was a native of Argos, named Althæmenes, who was indeed accompanied by some Træzenians, that followed him into Asia; and this is what helped to deceive him. This third migration † may be fixed

* Herodot. apud Ubbonem Emmium, de veteri Græcia illustrata, tom. i. l. 6.

† Strabo, Geog. l. 14, p. 449 & 451.

fixed on the year of the world 2950. Homer was then alive, and composed the poems which have rendered him famous among posterity.

With regard to the city of Cnidus, it is not precisely known at what time it was built. Strabo only says it was the first and principal city of Doris.* Its situation on the sea-shore of Carpathus

* Strabo, *ibid.*

Carpathus (which bounded Doris on the south, as the river Lycus separated it from Ionia on the north) contributed to render it very rich and flourishing.

It has been, moreover, famous for the great men it has produced. It was the country of Ctesias, physician to Artaxerxes king of Persia, the cotemporary and enemy of Herodotus ; who wrote the history of Persia
and

and Syria. Eudoxus, a celebrated mathematician, a cotemporary and friend of Plato, was born there ; as was Agatharchides, the famous historian ; with many others.*

Triopas, one of the Heliades or children of the Sun, being obliged to quit Theffaly, came and settled at Cnidus, and there built a fort, called, from his
 VOL. I. c name,

* Vide quos supra.

name, Τριόπειον, Triopeium, as we may learn from Diodorus Siculus.* From this Triopas descended Mezronima, the priestess of Venus, so frequently spoken of in the Palace of Silence.

The other cities of Doris were of little consequence, and hold no considerable rank in history : I shall therefore pass them over unnoticed.

In

* Diod. Sicul. l. 5, art. 37.

In regard to the cities of Myndus and Halicarnassus, notwithstanding they were fallen under the power of the Ionians, it is not surprising they remained neuter during the troubles of Doris, which are the subject of this work : their citizens remembered that they were indebted to the Dorians for their settlement. So powerful a motive of gratitude prevented them

from taking part in the war which threatened the Cnicians.*

It is probable that the government of these three parts of Asiatic Greece was monarchical, till the empire of the Persians in Asia Minor.

Pausanias says that the Ionians refused to make alliance with the Clazomenians,

* Strabo, lib. 14, paginis citatis.

nians, till they had engaged to acknowledge the descendants of Codrus for their masters.

This proof appears to have the more force, as the Athenians, and consequently their emigrants, had a stronger inclination for a democracy, than for any other form of government. Now, if Ionia, which was an Athenian colony, submitted to regal authority,

rity, there is much greater reason to suppose that Doris, a colony from Sparta, whose government was at once oligarchical and monarchical, should yield to the power of one.*

All these provinces enjoyed tranquillity till the reign of Cræsus, king of Lydia.† Cyrus made Æolia and Ionia his tributaries.

At

* Vide Thucyd. de Bello Peloponnes.

† Vide Herodot.

At that time the Dorians, who had still preserved their liberties, sent to demand a new colony from Sparta ; but they were soon compelled to submit to Persia, as well as the rest of Asiatic Greece ; and their government changed according to the different revolutions which happened among the Greeks of Asia Minor.

During

During the Peloponnesian war, these people, being, in their turns, subdued by the Lacedæmonians and Athenians, suffered every species of calamity.*

They afterwards fell under the power of the Macedonians, with all Greece, which was subdued by Alexander.†

At

* Thucyd. passim, in hist. belli Pelop.
 † Arrianus, & Q. Curtius, de expedit. Alexandri Magni,

At last, they came, together with their new masters, under the dominion of the Romans, after the war of Achaia ;* and that country is at this time subject to the Turks.

In respect to the work before us, it is very probable that it has been published ;

* Justin. l. 38. Appianus, in Mithridaticis et civil. bell. Sallust. l. 14. Velleius Pater. l. 2. Item, Eutrop. l. 4. Strabo, l. 14, et alii plures.

lished ; but it does not appear to have been generally known.

Agatharchides of Cnidus, whom we have mentioned above, author of a history of Europe and Asia, sent it to Ptolemy Philometer, the sixth king of Egypt since Alexander.

The frontispiece of the copy which has fallen into our hands has an inscription,

(lix)

tion, with the name of that prince and of the history we speak of. This copy appears to be the same as that which was sent to him. In it are the following words :

ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΝ ΦΙΛΟΜΕΤΟΡΩΙ

Αιγυπτια και Αλεξανδρειας Βασιλ-

ΑΤΑΡΧΥΔΙΟΣ ΧΝΥΔΙΟΣ



THE

tion, with the name of that
 prince and of the history
 we speak of. This copy
 appears to be the same as
 that which was lent to him.
 In it are the following
 words :

ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΝ ΟΙΔΩΜΕΤΟΡΩΙ
 ΑΓΓΕΛΙΑΝ ΑΝΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΑΝΤΕΣ
 ΑΤΑΡΧΙΔΙΟΙ ΧΥΤΑΙΟΙ





THE
P A L A C E
O F
S I L E N C E.



I WAS in my infancy when the Cnidians, of Greek origin, exhausted by former revolutions, and losing, by present civil wars, their troops, their chiefs, and almost their spirit of patriotism, resolved to send and solicit

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the

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the Spartans to choose from among them a citizen worthy of being their king. They farther intreated for some soldiers, and artists, that might, under his inspection, restore an unfortunate city, whose dissensions, voluptuousness, and effeminacy, had crushed their laws, their courage, and their virtue.

Clidemus, to whom I owe my birth, was already celebrated for numberless glorious actions, and employed his leisure hours in transmitting to posterity the memory of the greatest men of Greece : he was honoured with the title of Defender, united to that of Historian.

On

OF SILENCE. 3

On him Sparta bestowed the government of the Dorians. He departed with his family and others, who, by their love of novelty, interest, or attachment to his person, determined on this voyage.

My father, more anxious for the people's good than his own grandeur, regarded only the duties, and not the splendor, of his new-acquired dignity. He thought it not prudent to establish a severe government at Cnidus: the Dorians would not suffer a yoke so contrary to the softness of their manners. He chose rather to hu-

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mour subjects who were wavering between submission and independence, than to exasperate them, and was more desirous of making them useful to him than formidable.

In the midst of a thousand cares, belonging to this new state, my father neglected not that of rendering me worthy of one day succeeding him ; but it was reserved for my own experience to instruct and bring me back to virtue. The wisest precepts could not defend me from the intoxication of my passions. Cnidus became a dangerous place for me : every one favoured the wishes of
my

OF SILENCE. 5

my heart and the imprudence of my youth. The rank, to which Clidemus was raised, exposed me to the seduction of flatterers. His tenderness for me was too well known, and they paid him respect by striving to please me. My hand diffused his favours, and the hopes of obtaining them drew the courtiers to me; whilst I believed it resulted from my personal merit. My self-love and their artifices completed the error.

Protas, the most beloved of all my favourites, young, amiable, and fond of pleasure, began to inspire me with a taste for dissipation.

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“ Do you know, said he one
“ day, that the Cnidians are sur-
“ prised, and almost alarmed,
“ that you appear so seldom in
“ public ? The people like to see
“ their princes : they believe they
“ are hated if not taken notice of.
“ For the future, take part in
“ their feasts and games : your
“ presence will diffuse more splen-
“ dor, and preserve more order,
“ and you will attract them who,
“ for want of knowing you, held
“ you in fear.

“ To morrow the beautiful
“ Mezronima is to be consecrated
“ at the altar of Venus. That
“ goddess,

OF SILENCE. 7

“ goddess, protectress of the Do-
“ rians, condescends there to re-
“ ceive incense from every heart.
“ Her temple is the most famous
“ in the universe. You alone
“ seem to neglect her worship.
“ Come, she will be favourable
“ to you : but her son will per-
“ haps take vengeance on you for
“ your negligence.”

“ I consent, answered I, to
“ pay my vows at the sacrifice
“ which will be offered : but why
“ should I hope for her favour,
“ while Cupid, in the arms of
“ Psyche, renounces his empire
“ over the rest of mortals ? A-
“ las ! the silence of the oracles

B 4 “ sufficiently

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“ sufficiently- proves he resides no
“ longer among us.”

“ What signifies it, said he :
“ pleasure reigns there, and Ve-
“ nus is left to dispose of her son’s
“ arrows.”

“ She knows not, then, how
“ to make use of them, returned
“ I ; for I perceive all the hearts
“ she wounds are easily cured by
“ time or Hymen ; and, if I ex-
“ pose mine, I should wish, my
“ dear Protas, that Cupid himself
“ should guide the dart, sharp-
“ ened by pleasure, and fixed by
“ Hymen.”

“ I

OF SILENCE. 9

“ I understand you, interrupted
“ he : you modestly desire all the
“ gods to unite in working a mi-
“ racle in your favour, and your
“ liberty is not to be lost but on -
“ those conditions. Believe me,
“ this manner of thinking, which
“ to you appears delicate, is only
“ a prepossession of your child-
“ hood, which you will not al-
“ ways retain. Well ! what do
“ you infer from thence ? Hymen
“ and Fortune are in the same
“ temple where Cupid and Plea-
“ sure reside. These have, in
“ their turn, an altar between
“ them, and the illiterate, with-
“ out scruple, sacrifice at it.”

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“ I have not yet implored their
“ aid, answered I. Perhaps I
“ have but imperfect notions. I
“ offer them a heart which came
“ forth from the hands of Nature,
“ and supposes happiness is only
“ in the bosom of innocence. Will
“ Cupid refuse its homage! With-
“ out innocence, pleasure must
“ be only an illusion. Do you
“ think ——”

“ I think, replied Protas impa-
“ tiently, that pleasure is supe-
“ rior to every thing, at our age;
“ and we should embrace it rather
“ than analyse it.”

The

OF SILENCE. 11

The next day, the inhabitants of Cnidus, decorated with garlands of flowers, conducted the young Mezronima with pomp to the inward portal of the temple of Venus. Protas, animated with a sort of delirium, which he communicated to me, came and urged me to see this interesting ceremony. I followed him, with a slight trembling, which was unknown to me before and presaged nothing disagreeable.

All the beauties in the world were, I believe, assembled at this feast ; but the most dazzling object was the new priestess : if the

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divinity she was going to serve had designed to appear visible, she would have borrowed her figure.

When the sacrifice was finished they began the games in honour of Venus. They disputed the prizes of the course, dancing, and singing. A look, a smile, from Mezronima, bestowed on the conquerors, made those, who aspired to her favour, perform wonders. I was one of the fortunate ones whom she crowned.

“ The Dorians, (said I to her,
“ throwing myself at her feet,)
“ will owe to you the return of
“ the god they request. I feel
“ his

OF SILENCE. 13

“ his presence by an emotion he
“ causes in my heart ; a delicious
“ emotion ! which was unknown
“ to me till the moment I be-
“ held you, and can only be his
“ work.”

“ My lord, said she, if the
“ glory of submission returns you
“ the lover of Psyche, my weak
“ charms have no part in the tri-
“ umph. He chooses, without
“ doubt, a better object for your
“ first vows : but at least I invoke
“ his mother for your happiness,
“ as well as that of the kingdom,
“ which I believe inseparable ;
“ happy myself if the zeal of the
“ priestess will obtain you the fa-
“ vours of the divinity.”

The

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The multitude which surrounded us, and the cries of joy which resounded, took from me the possibility of explaining myself farther. I was prevented from saying any more, in a state which at the same time pleased and embarrassed me. The eyes of Mezronima seemed favourable to me; but how should I inform her what passed within me? She inspired me at least with an eloquence that would fain persuade me I should conquer; but I could not then use it to advantage.

I returned to the palace, followed by Protas and the young nobles

OF SILENCE. 15

bles who usually attended me. The acclamations which the people lavished on my victory, perhaps more on my liberality, announced my return to Clidemus.

“ I am charmed, Iphis, said
“ he, that you have signalized
“ your courage and dexterity in
“ presence of the Cnidians ; but,
“ my son, offer to the goddess
“ you adore only the incense which
“ is her due : take care of being
“ initiated into her mysteries. Cupid, you know, irritated against
“ the Dorians, extends his blessings to climates unknown.
“ Wait till this god, on whom
“ depends the true welfare of the
“ world,

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“ world, shall be appeased, and,
“ returning, take care himself of
“ your fate.”

“ Ah ! my lord, answered I
“ quickly ; do you think that Cu-
“ pid will henceforth reject the sa-
“ crifices offered by Mezronima ?
“ No, no ; Psyche will be no
“ longer able to detain him from
“ the place where the master-
“ piece of Nature calls him.”

“ Youth, replied Clidemus,
“ easily imagines that beauty is
“ sufficient to captivate Cupid,
“ that fluttering god, who one
“ moment surrounds it, and flies
“ as soon as it disappears. Are
“ you

OF SILENCE. 17

“ you sure that Mezronima has o-
“ ther means of detaining him ?”

“ My lord, (said I, interrupt-
“ ing him,) her charming figure
“ announces all the perfections of
“ of the soul : it appears to me
“ that the harmony in her form
“ indicates the same in her inte-
“ rior organs.”

“ It indicates so, answered my
“ father ; but sometimes only
“ makes amends for the want of
“ it. I will repeat it, that beauty
“ seduces, but touches not, the
“ soul. Two hearts cannot be
“ happy, if not formed by reason
“ and matched by wisdom, be-
“ fore

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“ fore they are united by love and
“ fettered by Hymen. Prudent
“ counsels ! of no avail against the
“ strength of rising passions ; which
“ artfully take the colour and
“ name of virtues, to introduce
“ themselves into a guiltless soul,
“ that they would alarm without
“ this artifice.”

It was thus that the remembrance of Mezronima triumphed over the morals of my father. I believed that my passion for her was ordained by fate, and feared to irritate the gods by resisting it. I could not imagine that a beauty so perfect was not in all respects the master-piece of their power.

I persuaded

OF SILENCE. 19

I persuaded myself that the immortal protectress of the Dorians had, with a benevolent hand, marked out the moment when I should love, and made choice of the object which should please me. I supposed it her care to secure, to her favourite people, one, from a long race of sovereigns, which was dear to them.

The illustrious birth of the young priestess, who descended from the Heliades, the ancient kings of the Dorians, justified my conjecture. I flew to shut myself up with Protas, who, by his penetration, saved me the trouble of unveiling my sentiments.

“ Save

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“ Save me (said I, with eagerness) : I die, if the hopes of
“ possessing Mezronima are refused me. Know that Iphis can
“ no longer breathe but to adore
“ her ; and that he will one day
“ place her on the throne. Ask
“ her to permit me to fall at her
“ feet. Fly, my dear Protas :
“ the repose, the happiness, nay,
“ the life itself, of your prince,
“ (I say more, of your friend,) are
“ confided to your trust.”

Protas, surprized at the impetuosity of my passion, answered at first by cool reflections on the difficulties which surrounded it ; but,
vanquished,

vanquished, as he said, by his attachment to me, he promised to undertake every thing in my favour.

“ I am sorry, said he, that I
 “ shall not be much longer able
 “ to serve your passion. My fa-
 “ ther, who is not confined by
 “ any place or employment at
 “ court, is resolved to go into re-
 “ tirement with his family.”

I desired Protas to tell me what motives determined Stratim to prefer solitude, when the advancement of his children demanded his care.

“ He

“ He hopes no more from fortune or honours, answered he.
“ He thinks he perceives his former services to be of no value under a new government ; and
“ that the favours you honour me with only draw on me the envy
“ of my fellow-citizens.”

My friendship for Protas, and the want of his aid, made me find this indirect reproach as just as it was moderate. I promised to detain him at Cnidus, by the distribution of the king's favours, and the same day procured for him the command of a body of troops destined to guard Clidemus, and the government

government of the citadel for Strattim.

Till then I had no other object, in protecting my favourites, than the pleasure of making them happy and attaching them to me by the tie of gratitude ; but, on this occasion, I own, Protas owed not his advancement to sentiments so pure. I made a purchase of his presence, as it became necessary to me, that I might talk concerning Mezronima, and that he might make known to her my sentiments, as if it were a virtue.

I ran to my faithful confident with the news of his promotion.

His

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His family returned me thanks, with demonstrations of joy, which I thought rather indecent. This I attributed to the surprize occasioned by an unexpected favour, and to the satisfaction of receiving it at my hands.

Their joy redoubled when I farther acquainted them what I had conferred on Stratim. This folly of satisfied ambition appeared to me a deviation from reason. How I pity, said I to myself, souls devoured by a thirst of grandeur ! they little know the road to happiness ! they lose the sweetness of it by their ambition. I would renounce my royalty to merit Mezonima :

ronima : master but of her heart,
I should believe I reigned over the
universe.

Theone, the sister of Protas,
received with moderation the boun-
ties bestowed on her family. I
had never seen her before : her
youth had till then kept her from
court. The noble modesty, with
which she supported my favours
and presence, drew my attention.
I found her handsome ; and, a-
midst all her artless graces, she
had an engaging countenance,
which set off her wit and sweet-
ness of disposition. Her features
were perhaps not altogether so re-
gular as those of Mezronima, but
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they formed a more striking result. They derived their charms from the movements of her soul. The eyes of Theone never demanded or courted homage, but they proclaimed her worthy of obtaining and fixing it.

Axaris, her mother, presented her to me. "My lord, said she, "your goodness to Protas makes "me desire your interest for his "sister. I shall die content if the "queen will deign to permit her "attendance upon her person."

"I have seen, with grief, interrupted Stratim, my children "condemned to a condition of ob- "scurity

OF SILENCE. 27

“ security for which they were not
“ born. My son has already re-
“ ceived from you a rank occu-
“ pied by his ancestors. I dare
“ not carry my wishes farther :
“ nevertheless my daughter is
“ dear to me : what an additional
“ claim would you have on my
“ gratitude, were you to interest
“ yourself in her behalf !”

Axaris then began to speak. She boasted of the antiquity of her house, the dignities which had made it illustrious, and the services which it had rendered the state ; and farther gave me to understand that they might now fix the scepter firm to me.

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“ Sparta is accustomed, ma-
 “ dam, returned I, to distinguish
 “ its citizens by their personal me-
 “ rit ; and my father brings with
 “ him the same maxim. He
 “ finds out and recompenses vir-
 “ tue, zeal, fidelity, knowledge,
 “ and abilities. These then, ad-
 “ ded I, are the claims of Stratim
 “ and Protas to arrive at honours
 “ which my friendship will pro-
 “ cure them, and the only price
 “ I desire. I will make known
 “ to the queen, not the favour you
 “ solicit, but your pretensions to
 “ obtain it. I make no doubt of
 “ the beautiful Theone’s pleasing,
 “ and the queen’s finding every
 “ thing she can wish in her.”

I took

I took Protas with me to the palace, to converse about Mezronima. She often went to see Axaris, and I hoped to be so fortunate as sometimes to meet her there. He promised me again to prejudice her in my favour.

Several days passed, in which I was not more happy, or less agitated. Protas at last came, and told me he had seen the beautiful priestess.

“ Well, cried I, am I permitted to pay her my vows? Has any one gained her heart before me? Does she know the dis-

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“ order the occasions in mine ?
“ Did you remark her air and
“ the tone of her voice in speak-
“ ing of me ? Do you bring no
“ flattering signs ? Ah ! Protas,
“ you encourage me not. — Ans-
“ wer me.”

“ Indeed, my lord, said he, all
“ the activity of my zeal cannot
“ equal your impatience. The
“ beautiful Mezronima has never
“ yet loved, but she has seen you,
“ and I will not long answer for
“ her indifference. She is in-
“ formed of your passion : it is
“ your business, in future, to con-
“ vince her of the sincerity of it.
“ The respect due to your rank
“ at

OF SILENCE. 31

“ at least affords you easier access
“ to her than any one else. A
“ prince formed to please may
“ soon profit by the right he has
“ to be listened to.”

“ But, said I, may I not con-
“ ceive hopes, on the faith of
“ your conjectures? Mezronima,
“ then, makes no distinction be-
“ tween my rank and my person?
“ You tell me of attentions ; but,
“ alas ! the regard that is due to a
“ prince will not satisfy a lover.”

“ These are, said he, very in-
“ genious fears and distinctions :
“ do you know what will be the
“ consequence of them ? They

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“ will embitter your happiness,
 “ and misinterpret the proofs she
 “ may give you of her attach-
 “ ment. Grandeur is only a pu-
 “ nishment, if it spreads the cloud
 “ of distrust on every thing around
 “ it.”

“ I know, said I, there is a
 “ sure method of gaining such real
 “ advantages to the person as are
 “ usurped only in appearance by
 “ power ; which is, to merit
 “ them : but love is not exacted,
 “ and nothing makes amends for
 “ the want of it. A sovereign
 “ without doubt lays a tie on the
 “ heart when he becomes suscep-
 “ tible of sentiments he would
 “ give

OF SILENCE. 33

“ give birth to. His good qualities will meet with success as well as those of others, and perhaps more easily.”

“ Consequently, interrupted Protas, you need be under no apprehension ; I will be a pledge for your success. You have nothing to overcome but the pride of Mezronima : if Clidemus will consent to your union, believe me, you will meet with no other obstacle.”

“ Come then, said I, my dear Protas, and conduct me to the feet of Mezronima. If it is possible for me to inspire her with

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“ what I feel, love and friendship
“ reserve for me a delicious fate.”

At these words we got into my chariot, and I renewed to my favourite the promise of placing his sister at court. I discoursed farther, with pleasure, on the good opinion I had formed of her : “ I do not know, said I, whether I should not have been her lover, had not Mezronima made the first impression on me.”

We just then perceived that priestess going out of the temple of Venus, and crossing a path of myrtles terminated by the pavilion she lived in. We descended from
the

the chariot, to join her : when Hegedippa, a young widow who was related to her, and some other priestesses which followed her, retired.

“ I believe (said I to her in a tremor) that there are no vows at Cnidus, of which you are not the object. How miserable must Iphis be, lovely Mezeronima, should you reject his ! The most tender love makes you mistress of my fate.”

She seemed, at first, more surprised than offended at so sudden a declaration ; but afterwards endeavoured to rally me for it.

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“ The excess of my passion (said
 “ I, taking fresh courage) justi-
 “ fies the frank confession I have
 “ ventured to make. Why are
 “ you offended at being adored as
 “ the goddess, who has chosen
 “ you, would be adored herself?”

“ My lord, (said she, more se-
 “ riously,) I will not dissemble
 “ that Protas has already informed
 “ me of the conversation you
 “ wanted to have with me. In
 “ this climate, favoured by Na-
 “ ture, where Cupid and Venus
 “ have as it were fixed their resi-
 “ dence ; where every thing of-
 “ fers to our eyes the image of
 “ pleasure ; where the air itself,
 “ which

" which we breathe, conveys it
 " to the senses ; you should not
 " have expected that Mezronima,
 " at the age of eighteen, should
 " accustom her heart to reason,
 " rather than to feel. The allu-
 " ring pleasures of love, which I
 " continually celebrate, have not
 " yet seduced me —"

" Ah ! that is all I hope, cried
 " I: I asked of the gods your first
 " sighs, as mine were reserved for
 " you."

" Listen to me, my lord, re-
 " plied she: your first sighs might
 " flatter my self-love, but at the
 " same time ought to alarm it.
 " Elevated

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" Elevated near the throne, sure
 " of ascending it, young, and
 " formed to please, you imagine,
 " without doubt, that none of
 " those advantages will escape
 " my attention ; and that your as-
 " siduities will complete the con-
 " quest for which the lustre of
 " your accomplishments have laid
 " the foundation. Mezronima,
 " my lord, has sensibility, but she
 " has still more pride : she forgets
 " not that the people, over which
 " you are about to reign, received
 " laws from her ancestors. The
 " surrender of my heart accom-
 " panies that of my hand ; and I
 " can hesitate only between the
 " scepter and censer."

" Protas

" Protas ought to have told you,
 " madam, answered I, that, in
 " respect to the blood from which
 " you are sprung, and still more
 " to your virtue, I durst not as-
 " pire to the honour of wearing
 " your chains but on the claim of
 " being your first subject. If I
 " ever command here, the Do-
 " rians shall obey me only by sub-
 " mitting to my queen."

Protas, to whom I appealed
 for the purity of my sentiments,
 bore testimony to them with seem-
 ing confusion ; but, taken up as I
 was in courting the favour of Mez-
 ronima, I did not then seek for
 the .

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the cause of his embarrassment. I exerted all the eloquence the most ardent passion could inspire ; nevertheless I could only obtain the liberty of seeing her.

I so far prevailed as to gain her attention when I spoke of my love.

“ If my duty and inclination, said she at last, should conspire in your favour, are you certain, Iphis, that Clidemus would approve of your intentions ? His policy, perhaps, and your taste, will not unite in the same object.”

“ Ah ! madam, (replied I in a melancholy tone,) cease to defend

OF SILENCE. 41

“ fend your heart, and to alarm
“ mine, by foreboding obstacles
“ which I will not fear. Clide-
“ mus loves me, and will not sa-
“ crifice my happiness and life to
“ false maxims of state. You
“ are continually throwing these
“ objections in my way ; is it for
“ us to discuss them ? Will you
“ not receive me but as an ambaf-
“ fador, who comes to treat on
“ conditions of alliance ? Let me
“ fee more tenderness in your
“ looks ; Iphis will then find no-
“ thing impossible, to merit you.”

Her lovely eyes, wherein I look-
ed for my destiny, whence I was
to derive my existence, were then
turned

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turned upon Protas. "The care,
 " said she to him, which your
 " mother took of me in my in-
 " fancy, has accustomed me to
 " follow her counsels. Tell her,
 " I submit to her directions. I
 " will see her, and be guided by
 " her prudence. I know the at-
 " tachment of your family to
 " mine. I believe also that it has
 " some share in your attention to
 " Iphis. When you serve him,
 " you think you interest my am-
 " bition in his happiness. But it
 " it would expose me too much
 " to listen longer to sighs I am not
 " yet authorized to hear."

Protas assured her that I would
 submit to consult her honour, and
 that

OF SILENCE. 43

that Axaris would take measures with us to propose this marriage to Clidemus ; but that, before we took this step, I was willing and ought to obtain her consent : that he flattered himself he proved his zeal, by favouring a passion which might one day place her where she deserved to be.

“ My lord, (said she to me, interrupting him,) Protas is more
 “ your friend than mine : excuse
 “ me from explaining myself farther. See Axaris. When Hy-
 “ men and honour favour love, I
 “ shall no longer resist.” She quitted us that moment. Possessed by an agreeable illusion, I fancied
 I saw,

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I saw, in her confusion, her answer, and her flight, the last effort of her pride.

Protas exaggerated the progress I had made on the heart of Mezonima. He observed her emotion, he said ; and I only wanted the consent of my father, to discover the love she still endeavours to hide. Her virtue prescribed the language of indifference ; but, he remarked, that language was become painful to her. In short, he forgot nothing that might contribute to my hopes, and pressed me to speak to the king. Nevertheless, through a delicacy which he approved not, I was willing to be
sure

sure of her affection before I formed an irrevocable engagement. I would again see Mezronima, and, without taking any thing from her duties, not depend on their empire over her. The rank, to which I was going to raise her, was, perhaps, the only object of her becoming mine; and I wished to gain her by affection alone. I was, as it were, jealous of myself: I required Mezronima's love, and not her ambition. She saw me continually in pursuit of her, and seizing every opportunity of declaring my passion, which became every day more violent.

Axaris, to whom I had opened my mind, seemed sometimes to betray

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tray her, by procuring me interviews which she professed not to allow, but which she appeared not displeased with.

Hegedippa's presence at our meetings might have been spared. Protas undertook to engage her attention, that she might not interrupt us; which he did in a manner that did not appear to me entirely officious. This discovery, I own, gave me pleasure. Whilst I believed my favourite without attachment, suspicions arose in my mind, in spite of me; and I did not think him free from them. He has been perhaps, said I to myself, bound in the chains of
Mezronima.

OF SILENCE. 47

Mezronima. The most faithful lover should not, in my opinion, hazard the danger of seeing her. How could Protas have preserved his indifference ? and, if he loved her, how could he bear the loss of her ? Besides, should I account with him for such a sacrifice ? My wounded imagination would have allowed him more than was necessary to win my gratitude.

I had even ventured to betray uneasiness, before my beautiful priestess, for the confidence with which she distinguished him. The good offices he appeared to have rendered me in respect to her, in
supposing

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supposing a degree of credit, implied also a kind of preference, which allowed of my complaints.

Mezronima heard me with coldness, justified herself with haughtiness, and reproached me with ingratitude to so uncommon a friend; sometimes breaking off with a tenderness which gave me encouragement. But the presence of Protas renewed my fears, which I got rid of when he seemed to turn his attention on Hegedippa.

The tranquillity of my mind being restored, I thought of nothing but obtaining the consent of Clidemus to my union with Mezronima.

ronima. I flattered myself it was for our mutual happiness. She betrayed a rising passion for me, and the height to which mine was arrived helped to seduce me.

Axaris and Stratim advised me to engage the interest of my mother, by acquainting her with my passion. I had never concealed any thing from her, and was tenderly beloved by her. Her mild and benevolent temper, joined to her penetrating and persuasive wit, marked her out as the only person capable of winning over my father, should my choice prove contrary to his intentions.

I opened my mind to her the same day when I spoke of Theone. She granted me immediately the place I begged for her.

“ But do you know, (said my mother to me,) that, from the picture you draw, I should perhaps hesitate to receive her from your hands, if the avowal of your sentiments for Mezronima did not silence some other conjectures. I am very glad that you have thought of bringing her near me. Your friendship for her brother agrees, in this respect, with the dictates of prudence. It is proper to have before us a pledge for the fidelity
“ of

“ of Stratim and Protas, seeing
 “ they are trusted with delicate
 “ employs, which they might ea-
 “ sily abuse.”

I the rather approved the wise reflexions of my mother, as they seemed to acquit me, with her, for the favour obtained, and left me at liberty to urge that which was more interesting to me. She promised to sound the inclinations of Clidemus, and to use her address to make him approve my views respecting Mezronima.

Gratitude, hope, and joy, made me prostrate myself at the feet of my mother. Never was I so con-

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vinced of her affection to me, as now, when she approved my passion for Mezronima. Our passions always prize whatever flatters them.

I sent a message to Axaris, to come and present Theone the next day. The queen received her with the most endearing caresses, and kept her the same day. The court was at once dazzled and adorned by her ; but the compliments she received, the assiduities of the courtiers, and the chagrined air of the ladies, roused not her self-love. Commanding, without haughtiness, chearful, with propriety, and sincere, without imprudence, she presently united all in her favour,
and

OF SILENCE. 53

and seemed alone insensible of her worth.

Menocles, a Spartan, whose uncommon merit and illustrious birth attracted the notice of Clidemus and the Cnicians, was the first who felt the effects of Theone's charms. I had been educated with him, and esteemed him ; but his seniority, his more reserved temper, and more austere conduct, imposed a sort of restraint on me ; and this restraint produced an air of coldness between us, which made him no object of fear at court. No one had more attachment and respect for me than he had ; and I had not so much ef-

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teem for any one ; nevertheless he was the person to whom I paid the least attention. The encomiums I received from him gave me more inward satisfaction than those that were lavished on me by the multitude ; but my vanity required praise before I merited it ; which he would not allow.

As soon as I had discovered his love for Theone, I felt myself more at ease with him. His rigid manners made me fear to find, in him, a merciless censor of my passion for Mezronima. I hastened to tell him that I perceived what passed in his heart : I approved his choice, and encouraged him to speak to
Theone ;

OF SILENCE. 55

Theone ; offering my services to engage Axaris and Stratim in the interest of his passion.

I presumed that, in disposing of Theone's hand to Menocles, I should have no other obstacle to surmount. He freely owned that Theone triumphed over his long indifference ; but added, that he did not wish to secure his own happiness at the expence of hers, and that he begged I would suspend my kindness, till he could flatter himself that she approved his proceedings.

“ My love for her, said he to
“ me, has not the impetuosity of
D 4 “ common

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“ common flames, which are kin-
 “ dled by caprice, planned by co-
 “ quetry, and inflamed by diffi-
 “ culties. It is a tender passion,
 “ which reasons on its object, and
 “ attaches itself thereto by reflec-
 “ tion. I examine Theone with
 “ care : her personal charms will
 “ allure every one that sees her ;
 “ yet they are the most trifling
 “ of Nature’s bounties, and touch
 “ me the least. I adore the
 “ beauties of her mind, and adore
 “ them with so much delicacy,
 “ that, if I have the misfortune
 “ to find her insensible to my pas-
 “ sion, I will sacrifice, without
 “ murmuring, the interests of my
 “ self-love.”

I thought

I thought I might, in turn, tell
 Menocles of my resolution to be
 united to Mezronima. “ You
 “ know, at last, said I to him, the
 “ power of love ; and will not be
 “ surpris’d that I have felt it. I
 “ love also, and love with trans-
 “ port. To name Mezronima is
 “ to paint all the ardour with
 “ which I burn for her. Can one
 “ love her with moderation ? Af-
 “ sist me, my dear Menocles, to
 “ dispose my father to consent to
 “ the most glorious marriage to
 “ which I can aspire.”

“ My lord, said Menocles, smi-
 “ ling, I know that Mezronima

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“ has conquered you. Your at-
“ tentions and assiduities have be-
“ trayed the mystery. Neverthe-
“ less, I had respect for the secret
“ of your heart, which you did
“ not entrust to me.”

“ Ah ! Menocles, (replied I,
“ embracing him,) forgive me for
“ having feared the inclination of
“ a philosopher, who till then was
“ unacquainted with, and perhaps
“ despised, the sweetest transports
“ of the soul.”

“ No, my lord, said he ; phi-
“ losophy condemns them not :
“ it teaches to moderate them.
“ It is not the pleasure of love
“ which

“ which it bids us to shun ; it is
 “ the danger of blushing at the
 “ choice of its object.”

“ Applaud mine, then, answered I eagerly ; every thing
 “ justifies it : my father will approve it if it has your suffrage.”

“ Iphis, (said Menocles, with a serious air,) I am going to
 “ surprise you, perhaps, and to displease you ; but let not a
 “ marriage, in which your happiness, your honour, and that
 “ of the state, will be concerned, be imputed to my imprudent
 “ zeal.”

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“ What reproaches would the
“ world dare make against you,
“ replied I, interrupting him?
“ Can the Dorians desire a more
“ suitable alliance? Will the Cni-
“ dians regret to see their princess
“ again approaching the throne?
“ I did not expect to find you a-
“ verse to the measure, as you
“ have neither reasons of state,
“ nor want of discernment, to ob-
“ ject.”

“ My lord, said he, I am ig-
“ norant of the designs of Clide-
“ mus, with respect to your mar-
“ riage, and I do not think my-
“ self qualified to dictate to him.
“ The

OF SILENCE. 61

“ The will of my sovereign is a
“ sacred command to me, which
“ I revere. I know Mezronima,
“ and acknowledge she is beauti-
“ ful ; but your heart is too much
“ affected for me to oppose its de-
“ fires, and I am too faithful a
“ friend to serve them indiscreetly.
“ Time, reflection, and the in-
“ structions of Clidemus, will ei-
“ ther put an end to, or confirm,
“ a manner of thinking which
“ wounds you, but whereof the
“ principle is pure.”

We parted, and I remained
some moments immoveable. A
croud of confused ideas suspend-
ed all the faculties of my mind.

What

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What dangers, said I to myself, does Menocles foresee in the connexion I wish to form? I know his integrity is such as no private interest or court-intrigue can warp. Does Mezronima betray me? — Is Protas to be suspected? — This tumult of ideas became insupportable to me. I saw, in futurity, nothing but cruel obstacles, or dangerous success. It was too great a sacrifice to renounce any of my inclinations, and they were all at war with one another. To respect my father, and disobey him; to esteem Menocles, and reject his counsel; to adore Mezronima, and doubt of her virtue; to love Protas, and suspect him of abusing
my

my confidence ; — so many perplexities formed in my mind a contest more dreadful than misfortunes that have actually happened.

I resolved to shut myself up the remainder of the day in the queen's apartment, and to hide myself from both Mezronima and Protas, in order to conceal from them the disorder of my mind, and to be reconciled to myself.

I found Theone busied in some employment which my mother chose by way of amusement. She appeared less chearful than usual. I feared, at first, that she was not well, and told her my fear with
an

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an air of truth which was a proof of it. I had an attachment for her, more tender than friendship, and less lively than love. The obligations her family was under to me, the familiarity that subsisted between her brother and me, the frequent interviews she had with me since she had been at court, the certainty that Mezronima possessed my heart too firmly for me to perceive charms in any other woman, to conclude, the presence of my mother, allowed Theone a degree of kindness and freedom towards me, which served to display the good qualities of her heart and the sprightliness of her wit.

“ Do

“ Do you know (said I to her,
 “ lowering my voice) what fol-
 “ lows from your declaration that
 “ you are in health? You there-
 “ by afford me a share of your con-
 “ fidence, without intending it,
 “ which I am not unworthy to
 “ experience without reserve.”
 “ What can you mean by a share
 “ of my confidence,” said she.
 “ Yes, (replied I, interrupting
 “ her,) a certain languor, diffused
 “ over your eyes, (which I attri-
 “ buted to a wrong cause,) sug-
 “ gests to me another, which I
 “ can easily guess; and Menocles
 “ is more happy than he dares
 “ hope to be.”

“ I

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“ I am ignorant, my lord, (answered she, blushing,) what you see to-day, in my eyes, that can announce to you the happiness of Menocles. My thoughts were engaged by something else.” “ Ah ! my dear Theone, said I ; Menocles loves you : you are thoughtful, and his name makes you blush.”

“ Be not hasty in drawing conclusions (replied she in her turn) : I begin to understand you, and you deceive yourself. I confess that, without self-love, and experience, which women should have, to set a value on
“ the

OF SILENCE. 67

" the attention that is paid them,
 " I have perceived the attachment
 " of Menocles to me. I might
 " perhaps, with a little address,
 " dissemble about this discovery,
 " turn it to my account, and tri-
 " fle with him, to serve my pur-
 " pose ; but, my lord, I am no
 " proficient in such artifice. I
 " perceive, with regret, the pre-
 " ference with which Menocles
 " honours me, and shall only be
 " importuned with needless vows,
 " which I cannot favour."

Surprised at the indifference
 Theone affected to have for Me-
 nocles, I suspected she had some
 secret passion for another ; and yet
I knew

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I knew no person in Cnidus so worthy of her as he that was rejected.

“You vex me, cried I: I had
 “conceived with pleasure the de-
 “sign of the most happy union in
 “the world. Menocles offers you
 “all that ambition, delicacy, and
 “virtue, can wish for, in a hus-
 “band. Is it possible that one so
 “reasonable as you are should re-
 “fuse the justice due to his me-
 “rit, from a prejudice in favour
 “of another less worthy of your
 “regard?”

At this moment my mother in-
 terrupted us, by proposing to go
 into

into the garden ; to which she was followed by her attendants. She called me, and, taking me aside, said, “ I have not yet been able
 “ to obtain an answer from Clide-
 “ mus concerning your marriage :
 “ he appears disposed to consult
 “ his council on the choice that
 “ ought to be made for you. I
 “ wished to direct his views to-
 “ wards Mezronima ; but, with-
 “ out explaining himself farther,
 “ he only told me that the interest
 “ of the state was the sole object
 “ that ought to be considered.”

Full of sorrow, I asked the queen if she foresaw a refusal, and would continue to interpose her
 kind

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kind offices in my favour. “ I am
 “ afraid to tell you, my son, said she,
 “ that I presage ill-luck from the
 “ extreme reserve of the king. A
 “ war is talked of, and prepara-
 “ rations are making which an-
 “ nounce it ; perhaps your father
 “ will be desirous of providing a
 “ successor before it is declared ;
 “ and perhaps he has planned
 “ some alliance which may add
 “ to his strength, and enable him
 “ to support it with honour. Me-
 “ nocles, Sostrates, and Phere-
 “ cydes, are shut up with him,
 “ and nothing transpires. I will
 “ see him again, and try every
 “ thing in my power ; but, my
 “ son, (added she, with a firm
 “ tone,)

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“ tone,) after having given you
“ this mark of my tenderness, I
“ shall have a claim on your sub-
“ mission, in return, if it should
“ prove necessary to sacrifice your
“ passion to contrary orders.”

The little hope she gave me
pierced me with grief. I then felt
all the force of my passion for
Mezronima, and could not pro-
mise to renounce it. “ I am per-
“ fectly sensible of your goodness,
“ madam (said I to my mother);
“ I know the duty I owe, and
“ will sacrifice my life to it if the
“ king commands ; but on such
“ terms only can he force my o-
“ bedience.”

“ Your

“ Your resolutions make me
“ tremble, replied she; neverthe-
“ less I flatter myself that a change
“ of circumstances, or reflection,
“ will make you happier or more
“ discreet.” Menocles arrived as
she finished speaking, and desired
a short interview with her. I re-
tired, and chance led me to The-
one. “ How I envy you ! said I,
“ sighing, if it is true that you do
“ not love.”

“ How ! my lord, answered
“ she ; what sudden metamor-
“ phosis makes you approve my
“ indifference, after having so
“ lately opposed it, in favour of
“ Menocles ?”

“ See

“ See the inconstancy of the
 “ passions, replied I. You are
 “ not ignorant that I adore Mez-
 “ ronima. Whilst the hope of
 “ possessing her intoxicated my
 “ heart, could I conceive a plea-
 “ sure more pure and genuine
 “ than that which results from
 “ mutual affection? But the ob-
 “ stacles which are surrounding
 “ me, in the room of pleasing
 “ sensations, afford me nothing
 “ but disquiet; the cure of which
 “ I wish to purchase with obli-
 “ vion.”

“ I know not (replied Theone,
 “ modestly) how far the power

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“ of love extends : it appears to
 “ me very formidable, if it go-
 “ verns a soul like yours ; and
 “ very unjust, if it tyrannizes o-
 “ ver it.”

“ Ah ! Theone, fly from it,”
 cried I sorrowfully. “ Your ex-
 “ ample, my lord, said she, should
 “ teach me to shun it. You find
 “ reason to complain, and you
 “ have not yet experienced all the
 “ evils it might bring with it.”

“ Can there be a more dread-
 “ ful one, returned I, than to
 “ lose the hope of possessing her I
 “ adore?”

“ You

“ You consider only your pre-
 “ sent vexations, replied she, and
 “ turn away from what might
 “ make you amends. Perseve-
 “ rance will restore your hopes.
 “ More favourable times will per-
 “ haps remove the obstacles which
 “ are thrown in your way : at
 “ least you will not find them in
 “ the heart of the beloved object
 “ of your affections. You love,
 “ without remorse ; declare your
 “ passion, without restraint ; and
 “ are listened to, without cruelty :
 “ are you so much to be pitied,
 “ when you cannot complain of
 “ the indifference, infidelity, or
 “ death, of her you love ?”

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The goodness with which The-
one endeavoured to calm the tu-
mult of my soul, the sensibility I
discovered in hers, her candour,
and her delicacy, interested me e-
very day more and more in her
fortune ; and her happiness was
sincerely remembered in every ar-
ticle that was essential to mine,

I passed all the time with her
that was not taken up by Mez-
ronima. I did not hide from that
beautiful priestess the alarms with
which the queen had inspired me.
Tears and vows of eternal love,
her earnest offer of renouncing our
marriage, rather than expose me
to

OF SILENCE. 77

to the displeasure of the king, a resolution to devote herself for ever to the altar, if my hand should be disposed of in favour of another — in fine, every thing that could express tenderness, despair, constancy, and generosity, was employed as the means of inflaming me more.

She was no longer the haughty princess that aspired to the throne of her ancestors ; she was a lover in despair, who made a sacrifice of herself to my repose and honour, continually protesting that death would follow the loss of me.

Protas, who was a constant witness of our melancholy conversa-

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tions, exhorted me to resist the will of my father if he refused me Mezronima. The Dorians, according to him, had no need of an alliance to defend them; their own forces were sufficient: the discipline the Spartans had established in the troops rendered them invincible: I was beloved by the soldiers, and they would do wonders under my command. A foreign queen would hereafter become odious to them: Clidemus was a bad politician, if he risked a revolt among his subjects, to extend his dominions. True citizens would not bear a mixture of foreigners called amongst them: instead of considering themselves as allies of
the

the Spartans, they would look on themselves as subdued by tyrants : their attachment from love was to be insured, rather than their submission through fear. My true interests, he said, required firmness on my part : that my father gave himself up to dangerous counsels : that the principles of Menocles were false, and too often followed : that his stern character irritated the minds of men : that the people perceived that the government leaned towards despotism : that the way to relieve them from this apprehension was, to place near the throne a princess born amongst them, sprung from their ancient sovereigns, who were as fathers

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to their people, and whose memory was still dear to them : that this choice would restore at least the shadow of liberty to the Dorians, and fix them under the dominion of my descendants,

To all these specious reasons Protas added assurances of his zeal for my person : it was without reserve ; I might depend on it, and should be guided by him, and not suffer myself to be sacrificed to the vain pretexts of state-reasons which were ill-founded.

Protas had understanding, and Mezronima beauty. — I dispelled the cloud Menocles had spread over

OF SILENCE. 81

ver my imagination, doubting his prudence, but not presuming to doubt his virtue. I even secretly accused him of having prejudiced Clidemus against the object of my love, and I resolved to anticipate the engagements which might be made without my concurrence, and to speak to the king myself. Nevertheless, to strengthen my resolution, I formed a sort of council, by assembling some of my favourites, and, under the seal of secrecy, made them the confidants of my situation.

Whether they were already tutored by Protas, whether they really thought as he did, or whe-

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ther they were willing to humour me, they all united in the same opinion; all declaimed against the misconduct of administration; all urged the necessity of reforming it; and all maintained that it was my place to inform Clidemus of the abuse of his confidence in general, and the danger of not calling Mezronima to the succession.

Being warmed in heart and mind by the reflections of Protas, the lovely eyes of Mezronima, and the approbation of my other courtiers, I went in search of my father. I know not whether he penetrated into what passed within me, or whether he had determined to exact

act implicit obedience from me, but he received me with a stern countenance, which disconcerted me, as I had never experienced the like before. " Prince, said he to me, your visit is à-propos ; " I wanted to speak to you : follow me to my closet."

I followed him, trembling : I was afraid to offend him, but was going to risque his displeasure, rather than renounce my dear Mezeronima for ever. We kept silence for a moment ; when Clidemus broke it, as follows.

" The scepter Sparta has entrusted to me is but a deposit,

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" for which I must account. It
 " would be torn from my hand
 " and yours, if not secured by
 " virtue. The Cnidians, once too
 " weak to support themselves with-
 " out assistance, sought the aid of
 " Greece. The colony that was
 " sent amongst them came for
 " their protection, and not to en-
 " slave them. From the bosom
 " of my country, I brought to the
 " Dorians such laws and arts as
 " are useful to the people, who
 " yield themselves up, but not to
 " slavery. Guarantee, at once,
 " of their happiness and fidelity,
 " I must watch over them without
 " ceasing. It is time that you,
 " my son, should henceforth par-
 " take

OF SILENCE. 85

“ take with me in this care, as
“ well as in the fruits and glory
“ resulting from it.

“ The isles of Coös, Claros,
“ and Rhodes, have reunited their
“ enmity, forces, and interests,
“ against the Dorians. Halicar-
“ nassus and Myndus remain neu-
“ ter. Polycrates, tyrant of Sa-
“ mos, the formidable enemy of
“ Greece, obliges it to keep its
“ troops and generals for its own
“ defence. I can then oppose,
“ to the combined army, only my
“ Spartans, who have grown old
“ at Cnidus, and some natives of
“ the country, who are not yet
“ accustomed to war or discipline.

“ Aristagoras,

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" Aristagoras, king of Miletus,
 " offers me his alliance ; of which
 " I stand in too great need, to re-
 " ject the conditions he annexes
 " to it. The princess Hermoclea,
 " his daughter, is to be the seal of
 " it : her hand is reserved for you,
 " and I have promised yours.
 " Prepare, Iphis, for this august
 " alliance. I wished to make you
 " sensible of the advantages and
 " necessity of it, to leave to your
 " obedience the merit of a free
 " and deliberate consent : but
 " know that, whilst your father
 " explains to you the motive of
 " his resolutions, your king com-
 " mands your assent to them."

In

In vain I essayed to make nature, love, and despair, speak in my favour. I urged all the reasons Protas had suggested to me. I made use of my mother's name. I painted Mezronima in the colours which love gives to beauty. I presumed to say that I would renounce even the hopes of the throne, for her ; that I should prefer the possession of her before the majesty of Jupiter himself, were I allowed to choose between them ; that the sentence of death was going to be pronounced against me : — but nothing moved or affected him.

“ I

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“ I have declared my resolution,
 “ answered my father coldly ; I
 “ will neither listen to your for-
 “ row nor to your imprudence :
 “ I ought even to punish you for
 “ your folly. My goodness is yet
 “ wavering : obey ; my favour is
 “ to be purchased only on that
 “ condition.”

I left the palace in an ecstasy of
 madness. At that instant I met
 Menocles. I could scarcely con-
 tain the first transport of rage the
 sight of him inspired me with.
 “ Perfidious man, (cried I, as I
 “ went up to him,) your false
 “ virtue has then deceived me !
 “ You

OF SILENCE. 89

" You have discovered the secret
" of my heart only to betray it.
" Your odious counsels have armed
" Clidemus against his unhappy
" son : the interest of the state is
" but a veil for your guilty designs.
" What have I done to you ? —
" what has Mezronima done ? —
" that you dare attempt to sepa-
" rate us. Ah ! you doubtless a-
" dore her. Fool that I was ! to
" believe you captivated by the
" charms of Theone ! The con-
" quest of her was no crime :
" what had she to seduce you ?
" You must have the pleasure of
" snatching from me the object of
" my love ; of making me ob-
" noxious to my father ; and of
" sowing

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“ sowing discord in his house and
 “ kingdom. Yes, these are your
 “ dark intrigues, which have made
 “ us enemies. Be satisfied, bar-
 “ barous as you are : I shall in-
 “ deed perish, but not before you.”

—“ What horrors do you reserve
 “ for my zeal ! replied he mourn-
 “ fully. I feel the wounds of
 “ your heart : I know what you
 “ suffer by the loss of her you love.
 “ Despairing love dictates to you
 “ a language which your reason
 “ would not warrant.”

“ My reason approves it, re-
 “ plied I, pale with anger ; and,
 “ in spite of your art, you cannot
 “ escape me.”

“ My

" My respect and attachment
 " to you, returned he, make me
 " disregard the bitterness of these
 " your reproaches, and I will be
 " deaf to them. But, prince, be
 " not blind to your errors. Cli-
 " demus was not informed by me
 " of your passion for Mezronima.
 " I did not occasion his refusal.
 " The only part I bore in the treaty
 " with Aristagoras was, to applaud
 " it when it was resolved on. Ne-
 " cessity and glory required that
 " they should accept it. Mezro-
 " nima is not the object of my
 " passion; I adore Theone: and,
 " if I have made other vows than
 " that of pleasing her, it is per-
 " haps

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“ haps to see you my rival. I
“ know her manner of thinking ;
“ it would have regulated yours.
“ Theone, if loved by you, would
“ be displeased should you wish to
“ sacrifice the general interest to
“ her grandeur and your passion.”

“ Go on, traitor, (cried I, a-
“ gain interrupting him,) assert
“ that Mezronima, with more
“ ambition than reason, pours into
“ my heart disobedience and re-
“ bellion, to mount a throne on
“ any conditions. You envy me
“ the pleasure of thinking myself
“ beloved ; but so far is it from
“ being embittered by your sus-
“ picions, that it still encourages
“ me,

OF SILENCE. 93

“ me, with this sword, to be re-
“ venged on you. Defend your
“ life.”

At this instant, when I had no
farther command over myself, I
rushed on him; but his coolness
checked me. “ Stop, Iphis, said
“ he, retreating without confu-
“ sion. The merit of your father
“ has justified the choice which
“ Sparta has made of him, to
“ command here; but I should
“ perhaps forget that I ought to
“ respect, in you, the work of
“ Fortune, (who made us equals
“ at our birth,) if I did not re-
“ member the ties of our former
“ friendship. Your fury in vain
“ authorizes

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“ authorizes me to break them.
“ The gratitude I owe to Clide-
“ mus, the rank he occupies, the
“ tender union which has subsisted
“ between you and me, the situ-
“ ation in which you are at pre-
“ sent, and the certainty of here-
“ after undeceiving you, are the
“ only weapons with which I shall
“ oppose you.”

His unshaken moderation disconcerted my fury, without calming it, and we parted. I flew to Mezonima. Hegedippa and Protas were with her. My eyes, still flashing, announced the agitation of my soul ; the cause of which I related to them. I saw no other
hope

hope than by engaging Mezronima to fly the place. I pressed her to accept my hand immediately, and go with me to seek an asylum in the isle of Claros; but her honour was alarmed at a step which would have ruined us both, and all the efforts of my tenderness could not prevail on her to comply.

A thousand other projects were planned and rejected; till, at last, Protas seemed certain of success from one he had formed. "Clidemus fears the gods, said he to me: contrive to make him consult them concerning your fate. If heaven destines Mezronima

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“ronima for you, your father will
 “not dare oppose the oracle; and
 “the princess Hermoclea will
 “have nothing to reproach him
 “with.”

“But, interrupted I, if the o-
 “racle favours not my flame, I
 “shall lose even the resource of
 “delaying this hated marriage;
 “and my refusal, which is al-
 “ready useless, will then become
 “sacrilegious. I have some con-
 “solation, at least, in the uncer-
 “tainty of my fate. Besides, my
 “dear Protas, who will warrant
 “that the ministers of your gods
 “will be faithful? are there none
 “but pure hearts in the temples?”

“Fear, .

“ Fear, or interest, may dictate
 “ an answer, whereof I may be-
 “ come the victim.”

“ I will cease, replied he, to
 “ expose you to difficulties which
 “ you have reason to foresee. It
 “ is too true that our priests, as
 “ well as other men, carry their
 “ passions and foibles with them
 “ even to the altar ; and that they
 “ there become more formidable,
 “ from the shelter the laws af-
 “ ford them.

“ Let us prepossess the mind of
 “ Clidemus on this point. My
 “ attachment to you will perhaps
 “ carry me beyond the bounds of
 VOL. I. F “ my

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" my duty ; nevertheless, the mo-
 " tive which actuates me justifies
 " the means I propose. Let us
 " not consult Jupiter, but his mi-
 " nister. And after all, while he
 " is seen to favour your private
 " views he will in effect promote
 " the general welfare.

" I have already observed to
 " you, that the Dorians, jealous
 " of their liberty, fear the succour
 " of Aristagoras ; who, being ac-
 " customed to conquest, offers to
 " protect them only with the de-
 " sign of invading them, and ma-
 " king their country a province of
 " Caria. Cnidus will rather pe-
 " rish than yield. Hegedippa is
 " sister

OF SILENCE. 99

“ sister to the high-priest of Ju-
“ piter, and may concert some
“ plan with him. Love for his
“ country, the rights of Mezro-
“ nima, the gratitude of a prince
“ like you, and four thousand
“ men under my command, are
“ persuasive arguments, which she
“ will know how to improve.”

We were agreed on this resolution, which pleased me the rather, because, by appearing to be directed by the will of heaven, I should not have cause to blush at my conduct in the eyes of my father and the Cnidians.

I left the business to Hegedippa ;
and, when she had obtained a pro-

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mise from the high-priest to interest himself in our designs, I went and threw myself at my mother's feet, intreating her to use all her influence with Clidemus, to permit me to consult the oracle : I promised afterwards to obey whatever the gods should vouchsafe to command me.

Clidemus refused to consent : he said it was doubting his authority over me ; an authority he derived from the gods : that my withdrawing myself from it for a moment was sufficiently criminal ; but that I should irritate them still more by endeavouring to penetrate their decrees. They did not
always

OF SILENCE. 101

always explain themselves to the wishes of curious mortals. The silence or ambiguity of the oracle would at least afford me a pretence to delay the marriage. The danger of the state urged the consummation of the treaty with Aristagoras. My ready obedience must atone for my former fault ; and I could make it be forgotten only by a triumph over myself and our enemies.

My mother, who dreaded fatal consequences from so much severity, represented that the mind was not subdued by harshness : that one of my age might at last disregard the power of duty, when

that of the passions was treated without discretion : that, when I appealed to the gods to decide between my father and me, I should not be regarded as a rebel : that, if the oracle favoured my wishes, all the powers on earth would not prevent its accomplishment : that, if it opposed me, I must then submit : and, in fine, that, if it were obscure, I must be resigned to my father's interpretation and authority. Menocles, who came and was admitted to this interview, supported the arguments of my mother, and it was determined my suit should be granted.

The day was fixed on for the sacrifice ; and Clidemus, being willing

ling to make it solemn, gave directions for the ceremony. I went to thank him ; but he, affecting not to attend to me, spoke in general terms of the preparations that were making, at one time, for war, for the sacrifice, and for my nuptials.

The moment of my happiness approached. Sure of the oracle which I had dictated, of the affection of Mezronima, the zeal of Protas, the friendship of Theone, and the approbation of the Cnidians, my heart was no longer agitated but by a sweet impatience ; and, among all the torments which had rent it, it pre-

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served not even its hatred for Menocles. He appeared in some measure to have atoned for the injuries I supposed he had done me, by determining my father to consult the gods.

The favours of love seemed to insure me those of fortune. My fancy presented to me a brilliant picture of the glory which I was to acquire, by defending the liberty of the Dorians without foreign succour. My prowess was offended that Greeks should calculate the number of their enemies. A taste for pleasure, and the fascination of pride, spread the most seducing illusions over my soul.

At

At length the great day so ardently wished-for, the happy day, arrived, when the high-priest of the king of gods was to pronounce the sentence which secured Mezronima to me, with the consent of my father.

Clidemus and the queen repaired to the temple of Jupiter, and I followed them, with the whole court. The ceremony was scarce begun, when Theone found herself indisposed. She was carried back to the palace, accompanied by Axaris and Protas: I would have flown there myself, but I could not be absent.

This accident made me unhappy : I saw Menocles turn pale : the queen was moved, and ordered some attendants to bring news of her. Soon after we were informed she was better, which made us easy ; and our attention, which had been interrupted by this event, was again turned on the ceremony.

The victims were conducted to the altar, and there slain. Their entrails were examined ; during which the thunder was heard, without the appearance of the smallest cloud in the heavens. Repeated claps spread terror around.

The

OF SILENCE. 107

The king and people, shuddering and prostrate, waited the issue of the dreadful presage ; when a stream of fire traversed the air, and consumed the incense, the flowers, the sacred knife, and the carcases and very skins of the victims.

At this awful instant the presence of the god was felt by the high-priest, and threw him to the earth. After a long, and, without doubt, mysterious, sleep, he arose, agitated by a preternatural delirium ; and, full of the god which inspired him, pronounced, in a loud voice, these words :

“ *Love, friendship, and innocence, shall triumph over the*

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“ fruitless efforts of a guilty collusion.

“ It is only at the Palace of Silence

“ that Iphis can learn his destiny.”

He fell at the foot of the altar, and expired in the most dreadful agonies, at the noise of the thunder, which ceased only that we might hear the oracle. We quitted the temple, equally astonished.

For the first time I felt remorse, and remorse is more cruel than misfortunes. Could I hide from myself that Jupiter had revenged upon his minister the worship and name he would have profaned, to serve me? Could I myself hope to escape from his anger? Mezro-
nima,

nima, Hegedippa, and Protas, were accomplices in the crime which the god pursued with his vengeance : my unfortunate passion had exposed them to destruction. Was there any other collusion than ours ? Love and friendship had inspired and carried on the seduction of the high-priest ; and yet love and friendship, the real authors of this impious plot, must triumph. How are we to reconcile the punishments and rewards announced by the oracle ?

So much obscurity drove me to despair. Where should I guide my steps, to know my destiny ? in what place search for the god
of

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of silence? I was going to be separated from Mezronima, without hopes of a happy reverse of fortune.

After having accompanied Clidemus to the palace, I flew to Mezronima, penetrated with the deepest affliction. Hegedippa and Protas were with her before me. We exhausted our reflexions and conjectures on an event which had disconcerted us.

Protas, more undaunted than credulous, alledged that the oracle and death of the high-priest were concerted by the policy of Clidemus. I struggled against the
horror

OF SILENCE. 111

horror with which this conjecture inspired me. Hegedippa wept for the loss of her brother. Mezronima, more calm than I expected to find her, coldly advised me to go in search of the Palace of Silence.

“ If Jupiter, said she to me,
“ has explained himself, we must
“ obey ; and if the king has been
“ beforehand with us, by making
“ sure of the high-priest, your
“ absence will secure you from
“ the necessity of espousing the
“ princess Hermoclea. This is
“ the only resource left you to
“ preserve your faith to me.”

“ Ah !

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“ Ah ! do you reckon for no-
“ thing (said I to her, letting fall
“ some tears) the horror that will
“ pursue me at a distance from
“ you ? What, shall I leave you
“ in the midst of your enemies
“ and mine, exposed perhaps to
“ treachery, or at least to the ra-
“ vages which war will bring to
“ Doris ? A vagabond in the
“ world, I shall abandon a peo-
“ ple, which cherish me, to the
“ yoke that threatens them : I
“ shall refuse my father and king
“ the support of my arm ; I shall
“ flie her I adore ; I shall rob my-
“ self of the glory and happiness
“ of defending you, or dying in
“ your

OF SILENCE. 113

“ your presence, to get farther in-
“ telligence of my destiny, which
“ may perhaps be only more fa-
“ tal to me, or may never be pro-
“ cured. I have already paid too
“ dear for daring to tempt the
“ gods.”

She, in her turn, in vain insist-
ed on the reasons which urged my
departure ; but I would not con-
sent unless she would follow me.
“ My destiny will be compleat,
“ said I to her, when I am cer-
“ tain of possessing you. Swear
“ to love me always ; be mine :
“ I ask no more of the gods : the
“ secrets they hide from me, the
“ blessings or evils they have in
“ store,

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“store, will then be indifferent.” Her resistance was invincible, and my resolution unshaken.

Protas commended my way of thinking, and sharply censured Mezronima for persuading me to a fruitless research after the palace of Harpocrates. No one ever heard that it existed. It was only a snare laid for me, to take me from my friends, under that pretext, and perhaps conduct me to Miletus. It was improper I should be absent at a time of trouble. If the oracle was to be fulfilled, the gods would choose the time and means for its completion, without my assistance. The people and
soldiers

soldiers would think themselves undone, if they did not see me, with arms in my hand, ready to defend their country. On this consideration I ought rather to listen to the dictates of duty and courage, than to the affection of Mezronima, which was employed in my safety. It would be always easy to delay my marriage till the peace was made. To the commands of my father I might oppose the necessity of better understanding those of Jupiter. This would gain time, and time would doubtless change the face of affairs.

These considerations, which to me appeared essential ones, thoroughly

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roughly fortified me against events. I quitted Mezronima, fully determined to watch over her, to form no engagement, and to shut my eyes on what had passed in the temple.

Certain forebodings seemed to warn my heart that I was betrayed ; but these forebodings did not point out my secret enemies. My blind prudence disposed me to brave them, rather than flee. To have done the latter would, in my opinion, leave them too many advantages : besides, absence might cool Mezronima's affection. She did not seem so touched with our common misfortunes as I had reason to expect.

We

We were almost certain, before the sacrifice, that the measures we had taken would insure, nay even hasten, our union: how then could she support, with so much moderation, the horrors which succeeded such flattering hopes! I thought I should see stronger marks of pity than love in her looks.

I shut myself up in my apartment, to glut myself, unobserved, with the poison which flowed in my veins, and to bestow my whole attention on the objects which surrounded me, and on the means of rendering my situation more supportable.

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portable. Menocles came, but was informed that I desired to be alone.

The next day my father sent for me, and mildly endeavoured to persuade me, that, as the oracle had not determined my choice between Hermoclea and Mezronima, it had left the right of decision to him. He said that the ambassador of Miletus urged the conclusion of my marriage, or threatened to withdraw : that he had been informed of the designs of the islands of Coös and Claros : that their troops were ready to embark : that we were unable alone to guard our coasts ; and that we must not hesitate

tate to secure the assistance of Aristagoras.

I answered, that, if we were not strong enough to prevent an invasion of our enemies, we had sufficient courage to receive them without flinching. That it was still more dangerous to introduce Aristagoras into Doris, than it was difficult to keep off those who were about to attack us. That armies composed of different nations, and commanded by strange chiefs, were less formidable than citizens who fight for their glory, their liberty, the safety of their country, the security of their fortunes, and the preservation of their families.

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families. That Greece was not so employed as not to be able to watch over her colonies : that two thousand men would not weaken her, and might be sufficient for us. Besides, the oracle warned us that a guilty correspondence was carrying on ; for which reason we ought to be more on our guard against the stranger who endeavoured to introduce himself amongst us. That the mal-contented, deprived of his support, would be constrained to remain quiet ; and that Protas would know how to keep them in order. That, for my own part, I was to learn my destiny only at the Palace of Silence : that this palace

was

was not known : that we must send to Delphos : that the priestess of Apollo would shew me where I ought to go, in obedience to the commands of Jupiter : that, in fine, to consult the peace of Doris and my own heart, it was better to terminate the war before my marriage.

Clidemus coldly replied, that he had discussed the advantages and disadvantages of an alliance with Aristagoras, which would hereafter give me the scepter of Caria, and that he had resolved not to reject it : that a foolish passion suggested ridiculous objections to me : that I had too long abused

his indulgence : that, in leaving the disposal of his favours to me, he paid attention to the use I made of them : that he was desirous I should gain the good-will of the Cnidians in general, and not of a few seditious spirits : that he knew how to maintain his authority, and would, within the space of four and twenty hours, be obeyed.

I found myself in the same embarrassment from which I thought to have extricated myself by the help of a counterfeit oracle ; and, not knowing how to act, was in extreme trouble, when Protas came to know the result of my interview with my father.

He

He appeared so moved with my despair ; he so often protested that Mezronima was equally desperate, and that she subdued her emotions only to encourage me ; that at last, seduced by the promises of so necessary a friend, I gave myself up to his counsel.

“ I consider nothing else, cried
 “ he, when the public good, the
 “ equity of the laws, and the in-
 “ terest of a prince I love, are in
 “ question. You must resolve to se-
 “ cure by force what they would
 “ wrest from you by fear. After
 “ all, Mezronima and the crown
 “ are an equivalent for the name

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“ of rebel, which you will wear
 “ but a very short time. Put
 “ yourself at the head of the troops
 “ under my command : Stratim
 “ will answer for the citadel.
 “ Take by force those traitors who
 “ inspire the king with the design
 “ of opening the gates of Cnidus
 “ to the Carians. Conduct the
 “ object of your love to the tem-
 “ ple of Hymen : the Dorians
 “ give her to you. There your
 “ father will no longer dare to
 “ oppose your union, and he will
 “ one day do justice to that zeal
 “ which delivered him from the
 “ perfidious wretches that beset
 “ him. When the interior part
 “ of the kingdom is free from
 “ factions

OF SILENCE. 125

“ factions and alarms, your brave
“ and faithful soldiers will easily
“ repulse any attacks made from
“ without.”

A certain warmth spread over me, and I saw this project in a glorious view : I fancied it would lead me at once to heroism and happiness. All was lawful, in my eyes, that flattered me with the possession of Mezronima ; and all was tyranny that disputed my claim to her. Being assured that a thirst for rule had no share in my resolution, I persuaded myself it was innocent. I refused not to be the first subject of Clidemus, but would be no longer the slave

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of his ministers. To shake off their yoke, with the consent of the whole nation ; then to signalize my valour, by triumphing over our enemies ; and afterwards to surrender myself, with submission, to the decrees of my father ; were, in my opinion, to discharge my duty with eclat, and not a sacrifice to prejudice.

I consented, then, that Protas should, in my name, take every necessary measure : he made me promise to keep the affair secret, even from his sister. It was agreed that we should meet again in the evening ; that he should inform me what he had done ; and
that,

that, the second day after, we should endeavour to put our design in execution. He assured me that the Cnidians were ready to declare for me, and that he had no doubt of success.

I went to Theone's apartment, whom I had not seen since the day of the sacrifice : she was not gone to the queen ; and I did not make my appearance but when the court met, in order to avoid the reproaches, threats, and tears, of a beloved mother.

“ Do you condescend to re-
 “ member me, my lord, said The-
 “ one, in the midst of your agi-
 G 4 “ tation?”

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“ tation?” “ Did you doubt my
“ friendship, replied I? Is there
“ any thing so attractive as to call
“ off my attention from the duties
“ and pleasure of it? Were yours
“ equally warm, you would al-
“ low me a greater share in your
“ confidence.”

“ You little know me, my lord,
“ answered she, if you think you
“ have reason to complain of the
“ reserve with which you reproach
“ me: alas! what secret have I
“ to confide to you?”

“ Theone, (replied I, inter-
“ rupting her,) you make me des-
“ perate. I can have no doubt
“ but

“ but your mind is affected by
 “ some secret grief : I have per-
 “ ceived it a long time. Why do
 “ you conceal it from the most
 “ sincere of your friends ? Un-
 “ happy and full of sensibility, as
 “ I am, I may at least partake in
 “ your pains, if I am not destined
 “ to relieve them.”

“ Say no more, my lord, (said
 “ she, hanging down her head,)
 “ about the gloom your goodness
 “ has remarked in me ; it would
 “ be fixing your attention on ob-
 “ jects unworthy your notice. My
 “ sex, age, and situation, imply
 “ only imaginary troubles, and I
 “ should blush to interest you in

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“ my weakneſſes ; you are but too
 “ much engaged by cares more
 “ important. Does the happy
 “ Mezronima ſtill maintain the
 “ preference over the princeſs of
 “ Miletus ? Does the king at laſt
 “ conſent to your vows ? Is the
 “ myſtery of the oracle explained ?
 “ Has any one diſcovered the dan-
 “ gerous correſpondence which
 “ threatens the ſtate ?”

“ Ah ! what ſignifies it, ma-
 “ dam ? replied I. The oracle
 “ announces, at the ſame time,
 “ that love and friendship ſhall
 “ triumph over this correſpond-
 “ ence. Need we fear it if thoſe
 “ deities watch over us ?”

“ Alas !

“ Alas ! my lord, returned
 “ Theone ; love and friendship
 “ owe you this miracle : but do
 “ you not deceive yourself on the
 “ knowledge of hearts which these
 “ divinities appear to fill ? All
 “ borrow their language ; very
 “ few observe their laws.”

“ You are interested, my dear
 “ Theone, said I, not to distrust
 “ my discernment. You and your
 “ brother share, with Mezronima,
 “ all the sensibility of which my
 “ heart is capable. Where can I
 “ find a more charming assem-
 “ blage of virtues and graces ?”

“ Ah! my lord, continued she,
“ I know all the charms of Mez-
“ ronima, and conceive all their
“ power: I know also the attach-
“ ment of Protas for his sovereign
“ and protector: but (if I am
“ permitted to speak) I fear a
“ little of his natural petulance is
“ mixed with the warmth of his
“ zeal; and that, by favouring
“ the heat of youthful passions too
“ much, he encourages them to
“ rebel by imprudent advice. I
“ am sorry you do not rather
“ hearken to Menocles: he is a
“ cool and upright man, who
“ has more love than respect for
“ you, and regards virtue more
“ than

“ than grandeur. I owe him this
“ justice.”

“ No more in praise of Meno-
“ cles ; he has undone me, ma-
“ dam, cried I. I am willing to
“ believe his intentions are up-
“ right ; but it is pride which
“ gives his conjectures the autho-
“ rity of truths, and his opinions
“ the certainty of axioms. With-
“ out Menocles my father had
“ made me happy. The false
“ politics, with which he inspires
“ him, will perhaps have conse-
“ quences more terrible than the
“ evils they have brought on me.”

“ I perceive in your manner of
“ thinking, interrupted she, the
“ maxims

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“ maxims of my brother. The
 “ conversation we had together
 “ yesterday left me some fears, I
 “ confess. Oh ye gods, how are
 “ sovereigns to be pitied ! Virtue
 “ itself may lead them into error.
 “ Tender and faithful friendship,
 “ that being unknown to kings,
 “ betrayed by nobles, slighted by
 “ the multitude, and set at nought;
 “ friendship, which you feel and
 “ cherish, without doubt secures
 “ you the heart of Protas ; but
 “ will it furnish you light from
 “ his reason, and profit from his
 “ experience ? Beware, my lord,
 “ that a furious zeal may mislead
 “ my brother, and involve you in
 “ his errors. At present you ex-
 “ perience

OF SILENCE. 135

“ perience only alarms or regret :
“ provoke not the sting of re-
“ morse ; it may expiate crimes,
“ but restores not innocence.”

“ I know not (answered I, in
“ confusion) what occasions your
“ uneasiness : I have done nothing
“ to justify it. Do you reckon in
“ the number of my duties the
“ horror of giving my hand to
“ Hermoclea, when heaven dis-
“ poses of my heart in favour of
“ Mezronima ? Shall I be pu-
“ nished for being neither faithless
“ nor perjured ? Shall the com-
“ passion, with which my misfor-
“ tunes inspire Protas, be sus-
“ pected even by his sister ? Is
“ the

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“ the fear of inviting a conqueror
“ into a kingdom, yet in a feeble
“ state, an imprudence? Is the
“ voice of the nation, which I
“ convey to my father, a cry of
“ sedition? Ah! Theone, never
“ did love so well engage reason
“ on its side.”

“ I presume not, my lord, re-
“ turned she, to direct your in-
“ clination to either princess: hea-
“ ven is my witness that your hap-
“ piness and glory, and the pub-
“ lic tranquillity, are the only ob-
“ jects of my wishes.”

Here we were interrupted, and
I went to the queen's apartment,
with

with a calm and easy air, that no suspicion might arise on the use I had made of the remaining hours.

I was far from being at ease. The reflexions of Theone had moved me. The candour of her soul spread a persuasive charm over every thing she said : nevertheless I could no longer disclaim the proceedings of Protas, and flattered myself that success would plead in excuse.

The remembrance of Mezronima still combated my want of resolution. I endeavoured to quiet myself in respect to the duty I owed Clidemus. I even persuaded

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ded myself that I was about to render him essential service ; and that, after all, by extending the line of duty, I had been compelled to transgress it.

I waited for the hour of meeting Protas, divided between impatience and fear : at last it came, and I went to the same plain where I first saw Mezronima, and which I had fixed on for the purpose of meeting.

Protas was already there, attended by two or three courtiers, some citizens of Cnidus, and many Greeks, who were under his command. He presented them
all

OF SILENCE. 139

all to me, as devoted to my service. He hastily informed me of the precautions agreed on to secure our enterprize. He answered for the zeal of the associates, and approbation of Stratim. He protested that the king and queen should be treated with respect in the heat of action : that no blood should be spilt but that of traitors who resisted : that Mezronima would expect me, with transport, at the temple of Hymen : that she assured me of the protection of Venus : in fine that every thing was prepared, and they only waited my word of command to put the plan he had concerted into execution.

This

This command, which they required, made me tremble, when I saw myself at the critical moment. I then represented to myself, too late, the confusion and cries of an unhappy people, whom I was going to expose, for my quarrel, to the fury of parties. I fancied I saw Clidemus, in the midst of the soldiers, in vain attempting to appease them, and losing his life by his endeavours to make them submit.

Protas perceived my agitation, and reproached me with the certain danger to which I should expose so many brave people, if,
through

OF SILENCE. 141

through want of resolution, our schemes were to be discovered. In order to work on me, he so artfully employed the name of Deliverer of our Country, and the image of Mezronima, that I was going to pronounce the fatal order; when, on a sudden, a neighbouring mountain, adorned with verdure and flowers, vomited from its bowels a torrent of burning sulphur; and the earth received so violent a shock, that we could not stand on our feet. In vain we endeavoured to fly; it opened under me, and swallowed me up.

END OF VOL. I.